extensive use of IT based distance education; periodic phasing out of outdated Postgraduate Programmes; encouraging accreditation of courses; promotion of industrial participation and introduction of technology entrepreneur; introduction of national fellowships to scholars pursuing Doctoral Programmes; expansion/strengthening of Early Faculty Induction Programme; commencement of Sequential Summer School Programmes, expansion/strengthening of Quality Improvement Programme, etc."

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Salinity Increase in Gujarat

909. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SMT. SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that salinity increase in Gujarat is causing a concern to agriculture;

(b) if so, how much land has been rendered useless for agriculture due to salinity ingress in Gujarat during the recent years;

(c) what steps Government propose and the time frame to meet the above situation, to stop salinity ingress; and

(d) the details of saline land of States and Union Territories having coastal areas, from 1991 to 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Enhanced exploitation of ground water in the coastal region has resulted in increase in the salinity in Gujarat. Deterioration of the quality of ground water and enhanced salinity in the soil profile has caused serious threat to agriculture.

(b) As per available estimates, an area of 10.42 lakh ha. is affected by salinity including coastal salinity in the State of Gujarat.

(c) A Joint Central Team visited the States of West Bengal,

Gujarat & Andhra Pradesh. Based on the recommendations of the Team, a pilot project for the States of West Bengal, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa has been formulated & forwarded to Planning Commission.

(d) No scientific survey has been conducted to assess the extent of salinity in the country during 1991-2001. However, it is estimated that about 76 lakh ha. land is affected by coastal and inland salinity. The State-wise distribution is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise status of the Salt affected soils in the country

Sl. No.	State/UT	Area ('000 ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	240
2.	Bihar	4
3.	Gujarat	1042
4.	Haryana	526
5.	Punjab	718
6.	Karnataka	404
7.	Kerala	117
8.	Madhya Pradesh	242
9.	Maharashtra	534
10.	Orissa	404
11.	Rajasthan	1000
12.	Tamil Nadu	104
13.	Uttar Pradesh	1295
14.	West Bengal	986
	Total:	**7616**